

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): An aqueous alkenylsuccinic anhydride-containing polymer dispersion which is obtainable by miniemulsion polymerization of hydrophobic monoethylenically unsaturated monomers in the presence of alkenylsuccinic anhydrides.

Claim 2 (Original): An aqueous alkenylsuccinic anhydride-containing polymer dispersion according to claim 1, which is obtainable by emulsifying an organic phase which contains

- at least one alkenylsuccinic anhydride and
- at least one monoethylenically unsaturated hydrophobic monomer

in dissolved form, in the presence of a surfactant in an aqueous phase with the aid of mechanical emulsification methods with formation of a miniemulsion having a particle size of the emulsified organic phase of not more than 500 nm, at least one of the two phases additionally containing a free radical polymerization initiator, or a polymerization initiator being added to the miniemulsion, and polymerizing the monomers of the miniemulsion.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An aqueous alkenylsuccinic anhydride-containing polymer dispersion according to claim 1 [[or 2]], which is obtainable by emulsifying the organic phase in the aqueous phase to give a miniemulsion by the action of ultrasound or with the aid of high-pressure homogenizers.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An aqueous alkenylsuccinic anhydride-containing polymer dispersion according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the organic phase additionally contains a nonpolymerizable hydrophobic compound.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An aqueous alkenylsuccinic anhydride-containing polymer dispersion according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the organic phase consists of a solution, of a binary or polynary mixture and/or of a dispersion which contains

- at least one C₁₄- to C₂₂-alkenylsuccinic anhydride,
- at least one monomer from the group consisting of styrene, methylstyrene, C₂- to C₂₈-olefins, esters of monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids of 3 to 5 carbon atoms and monohydric alcohols of 1 to 22 carbon atoms, vinyl esters of C₁- to C₁₈-carboxylic acids, acrylonitrile and methacrylonitrile, and
- at least one hydrocarbon, an alcohol of 10 to 24 carbon atoms, hydrophobic polymers having molar masses Mw of < 10 000, tetraalkylsilanes and/or mixtures of said compounds.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An aqueous alkenylsuccinic anhydride-containing polymer dispersion according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the miniemulsion polymerization is additionally carried out in the presence of at least one water-soluble and/or water-swellable polysaccharide.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An aqueous alkenylsuccinic anhydride-containing polymer dispersion according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the miniemulsion polymerization is additionally carried out in the presence of at least one alkyldiketene.

Claim 8 (Original): A process for the preparation of aqueous alkenylsuccinic anhydride-containing polymer dispersions, wherein the hydrophobic monomers are

polymerized by a miniemulsion polymerization method in the presence of at least one alkenylsuccinic anhydride.

Claim 9 (Original): A process according to claim 8, wherein the miniemulsion polymerization is additionally carried out in the presence of at least one water-soluble and/or water-swellable polysaccharide.

Claim 10 (Original): A process for the preparation of aqueous alkenylsuccinic anhydride-containing polymer dispersions according to claim 8, wherein an organic phase which contains

- at least one alkenylsuccinic anhydride and
- at least one monoethylenically unsaturated hydrophobic monomer

in dissolved form is emulsified in the presence of a surfactant in an aqueous phase with the aid of mechanical emulsification apparatuses with formation of a miniemulsion having a particle size of the emulsified organic phase of not more than 500 nm, and the monomers of the miniemulsion are polymerized in the presence of at least one water-soluble and/or water-swellable polysaccharide and at least one polymerization initiator.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 9 [[or 10]], wherein the miniemulsion is mixed with an aqueous solution which contains a water-soluble starch, and the mixture is polymerized in the presence of at least one polymerization initiator at up to 40°C.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A process according to ~~any of claims 8 to 11~~ claim 8, wherein the miniemulsion is mixed with an aqueous solution which contains a degraded starch in dissolved form.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A process according to ~~any of claims 8 to 12~~ claim 8, wherein the miniemulsion is polymerized continuously or batchwise in the presence of a water-soluble and/or water-swellable polysaccharide.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A process according to ~~any of claims 8 to 13~~ claim 8, wherein the polymerization is carried out at from -20 to 40°C.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A process according to ~~any of claims 8 to 14~~ claim 8, wherein the miniemulsion polymerization is additionally carried out in the presence of an alkyldiketene.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A process according to ~~any of claims 8 to 15~~ claim 8, wherein an organic phase which contains

- at least one alkenylsuccinic anhydride and at least one alkyldiketene and
- at least one monoethylenically unsaturated hydrophobic monomer

in dissolved form is emulsified in the presence of a surfactant in an aqueous phase which contains at least one water-soluble polysaccharide with the aid of mechanical emulsification apparatuses with formation of a miniemulsion having a particle size of the emulsified organic phase of not more than 500 nm, and the monomers of the miniemulsion are polymerized in the presence of at least one polymerization initiator.

Claim 17 (Original): A process according to claim 16, wherein the water-soluble polysaccharide used is a degraded starch.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method of using ~~use of an aqueous alkenylsuccinic anhydride-containing polymer dispersion according to any of claims 1 to 7 as~~ an engine size and surface size for paper and for imparting water repellency to leather, natural and/or synthetic fibers and textiles an aqueous alkenylsuccinic anhydride-containing polymer dispersion according to claim 1.